

FREE

School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation

Covering the Newhall School District



Volume 3, Issue 8

September / October 2021



**"Where We All
Belong"**





CalPERS members, there's an easier way to get the care you want

With the UnitedHealthcare SignatureValue® Alliance or Harmony HMO plans, you'll have a helping hand in health care. These plans provide broader provider networks with access to many medical groups, plus personalized digital tools designed to help make managing your health—and health plan—easier. It's all here to help you get the care you want, the way you want it.

**Visit uhc.com/calpers or
call 1-877-359-3714 to learn more**

**United
Healthcare**

SUPERINTENDENT

Off and Running

The 2021-2022 school year has successfully launched at our ten award winning sites and all of our pre-schools. What a difference a year makes! Seeing sites full of happy, energetic students, teachers, and other district personnel gives me further hope that we growing, supporting, and empowering our most prized possessions — your children, our students. While some things remain the same, like masking, social distancing, and frequent hand washing, what is evident is just how much our students missed their friends and teachers.

We will continue our efforts to provide the best education in the Santa Clarita Valley while shining a spotlight on the concerted efforts to address the social-emotional needs of our students. I am excited to have full-time counselors at all sites and additional counselors at each of our Title I schools and Pico Canyon this year. With parent consent, we have the ability to screen students using the Panorama screener to assess the specific social emotional needs of a student, similar to how we provide differentiated supports in reading and math. Our primary goal is to provide targeted supports based on the individual needs of each student. Please reach out to your school's counselor if you want to know more information about the Panorama screener or are interested in having your child assessed.

Lastly, if you are not aware, each month I hold a virtual Superintendent Chat series with parents to share the latest information about the District and to provide parents an opportunity to ask questions and share feedback on our efforts. These meetings are held the second Wednesday of the month from 4:00-5:00 PM. Hope to see you there!

Below is the link for these meetings:

<https://zoom.us/j/95013601597?pwd=Nm14MmZ6ck5lS1hrRm5XaDkvQnNIQT09>

Meeting ID: 950 1360 1597

Passcode: 515792

Mobile: 669-900-6833



Jeff Pelzel
Superintendent

Comenzando el Año Escolar

El año escolar 2021-2022 comenzó con éxito en nuestras diez escuelas premiadas y en todos nuestros centros preescolares. ¡Qué diferencia hace un año! Ver a las escuelas llenas de estudiantes, maestros y personal del distrito felices y llenos de energía me da más esperanza de que estamos creciendo, apoyando y fortaleciendo a nuestros más preciados: sus hijos, nuestros estudiantes. Aunque algunas cosas siguen siendo las mismas, como el uso de máscaras, el distanciamiento social y el lavado de manos frecuente, lo que es evidente es cuánto los estudiantes extrañaron a sus amigos y maestros.

Continuaremos con nuestros esfuerzos para proporcionar la mejor educación en el Valle de Santa Clarita, mientras ponemos nuestra atención a los esfuerzos concertados para abordar las necesidades socio-emocionales de nuestros estudiantes. Estoy emocionado de tener consejeros de tiempo completo en todas las escuelas y consejeros adicionales en cada una de nuestras escuelas de Título I y Pico Canyon este año. Con el permiso de los padres, tenemos la capacidad de examinar a los estudiantes utilizando el evaluador “Panorama” para evaluar las necesidades socio-emocionales específicas de un estudiante, de manera similar a como proporcionamos apoyos diferenciados en lectura y matemáticas. Nuestro objetivo principal es proporcionar apoyos específicos basados en las necesidades individuales de cada estudiante. Por favor, comuníquese con el consejero de su escuela si desea obtener más información sobre el evaluador “Panorama” o si está interesado en que su hijo sea evaluado.

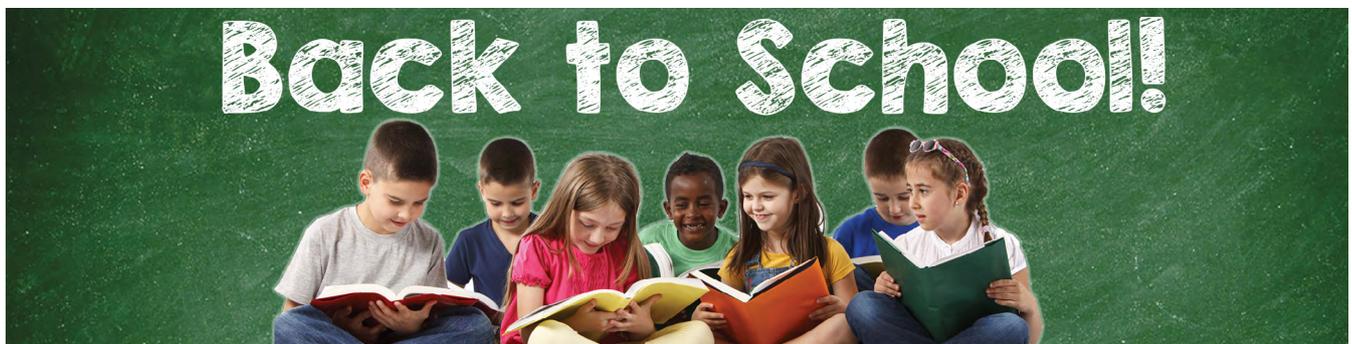
Por último, si usted no está al tanto, cada mes tengo una serie de Charlas con el Superintendente virtuales con los padres para compartir la información más reciente sobre el Distrito y para proporcionar a los padres la oportunidad de hacer preguntas y compartir comentarios sobre nuestros esfuerzos. Estas reuniones se llevan a cabo el segundo miércoles del mes de 4:00-5:00 PM. ¡Esperamos verlos allí! A continuación se incluye enlace para estas reuniones:

<https://zoom.us/j/95013601597?pwd=Nm14MmZ6ck5lS1hrRm5XaDkvQnNIQT09>

Clave de la Reunión: 950 1360 1597

Contraseña: 515792

Número Telefónico: 669-900-6833





Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



Netragrednik

School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation

www.schoolnewsrollcall.com

Covering the
NEWHALL SCHOOL DISTRICT

FOUNDER/PUBLISHER: Kay Coop
562/493-3193 • kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com

ADVERTISING SALES: 562/493-3193

CONTENT COORDINATOR: Barbra Longiny

GRAPHIC DESIGNER/PRODUCTION: Emily Ung

COPY EDITORS:

Lisa Brock, Kate Karp & Anna Zappia

SOCIAL MEDIA: Nancy Lueder

Netragrednik by Neta Madison



SCHOOL NEWS ROLL CALL, LLC

P.O. Box 728, Seal Beach, CA 90740

562/493-3193

www.schoolnewsrollcall.com

Copyright © 2019, School News Roll Call, LLC

Reproduction in whole or in part without written permission is strictly prohibited unless otherwise stated. Opinions expressed by contributing writers and guest columnists are their views and not necessarily those of *School News Roll Call*. This publication is privately owned and the right is reserved to select and edit content. The Newhall School District does not endorse the advertisers in this publication.

Welcome back to another school year. This is our third year publishing the Newhall School District *School News*.

Superintendent Pelzel begins this issue with his positive message on page 3. Although we aren't back to "normal" in the classrooms at least it is exciting for the students to be back.

On page 5 Brian Walters, Board of Education President, wrote in his article how his family started enjoying lemonade at Sunday dinnertime and each member shared positive blessings. Often we don't

take the time to count our blessings. Personally, during this pandemic my husband and I have eaten breakfast daily at our favorite cafe. Over the course of the year we asked several other regular patrons to join our table. Now we all share a friendship that is the direct result of this pandemic. Reaching out to others will enrich everyone concerned. Kindness is contagious.

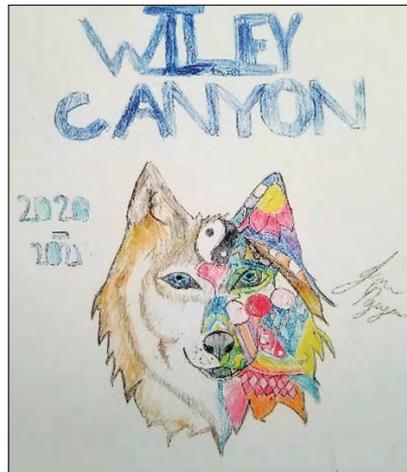
Our next issue is November 3 just in time for the holidays. In the meantime, Happy Halloween and Happy School Days!

Wiley Canyon PTA

<https://www.newhallschooldistrict.com/domain/2475>

Kiss the Pig Fundraiser

As an executive board, we decided we wanted to fundraise to provide every student a yearbook for the 2020-2021 school year. We also had a contest for 6th grade to submit their designs for the cover. Our yearbook is full of memories that captured just how remarkable our students, parents, and teachers were during this past school year. Teachers and parents submitted pictures for each activity we did throughout the year (back to school, restaurant nights, trunk or treat, father/daughter paint night, and mother/child cookie decorating to name a few). Our biggest and most memorable fundraiser that helped us reach our financial goal was the read-a-thon. Mr. Lankford agreed to kiss a pig if we hit a \$2500 goal and Mr. Pelzel agreed to kiss a pig if we hit a \$5000 goal. We raised over \$4000 and the students LOVED seeing Mr. Lankford kiss the baby pig.



Recaudación de Fondos "Besar al Cerdito"

Como junta ejecutiva, decidimos recaudar fondos para proporcionar a cada estudiante un anuario para el año escolar 2020-2021. También tuvimos un concurso en 6° grado para diseñar la portada del anuario. Nuestro anuario está lleno de recuerdos que capturaron lo extraordinarios que fueron nuestros estudiantes, padres y maestros durante el año escolar pasado. Los maestros y los padres enviaron fotografías de cada actividad que tuvimos durante el año (regreso a la escuela, noches de restaurante, festividades de Halloween, noche de pintura con los padres e sus hijas, y decoración de galletas con las madres e sus hijos, por nombrar algunas). Nuestro evento de recaudación de fondos más grande y memorable que nos ayudó a alcanzar nuestra meta financiera fue el "read-a-thon." El Sr. Lankford acordó besar a un cerdito si alcanzamos una meta de \$2,500 y el Sr. Pelzel aceptó besar a un cerdito si alcanzamos una meta de \$5,000. Recaudamos más de \$4,000 y a los estudiantes les ENCANTÓ ver al Sr. Lankford besar al cerdito.

BOARD OF EDUCATION



Brian Walters
President
(Area #1)



Donna Rose
Clerk
(Area #2)



Ernesto Smith
Member
(Area #3)



Isaiah Talley
Member
(Area #4)



Sue Solomon
Member
(Area #5)

Making Lemonade

We were thrilled to welcome all students back for full-day, in-person instruction this past month at all sites. Though the masks worn by all looked different than prior pre-pandemic years, the return to partial normalcy was a welcome feeling, especially after the past 18 months.

As I am sure it was in your families, my wife and I worked with our children to navigate unfamiliar territory beginning with all distance learning. There were definitely tears involved. I have heard teachers and staff say similar things. But there is always a brighter side if we look for it.

During the pandemic, my wife started serving lemonade at dinnertime on Sundays, a treat at our house. Her message to our family was simple: the pandemic offered a lot of “lemons,” but those sour things could be made into lemonade. To get the lemonade, we each shared a blessing or other good thing that happened due to the pandemic. Each week, we found new things to be grateful for and to find the sweetness that life was offering even at times when it sometimes felt hopeless.

The fight to overcome a pandemic continues. We do not fully appreciate what the long term impacts on everyone will be. So we ask you to continue to make lemonade: to find the positives in everything as we move forward together, and share those positives with your children and everyone else.

We will do the same. We are pleased to announce that each of our 10 sites was awarded the Silver Level in Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS), the highest level we were eligible to receive. This is our effort to focus everyone on the positives to further build the communities we want right here. We look forward to making lots of lemonade with you!



Brian Walters
President
(Area #1)

Haciendo Limonada

Estuvimos encantados de darles la bienvenida a todos los estudiantes para recibir instrucción en persona el mes pasado en todas las escuelas. Aunque el uso de máscaras por todos se veía diferente a los años previos a la pandemia, el regreso a alguna normalidad fue un sentimiento bienvenido, especialmente después de los últimos 18 meses.

Estoy seguro de que igual como sus familias, mi esposa y yo trabajamos con nuestros hijos para navegar por un territorio desconocido comenzando con el aprendizaje a distancia. Definitivamente, hubo lágrimas. He oído a los maestros y al personal hacer comentarios similares. Pero siempre hay un lado positivo si lo buscamos.

Durante la pandemia, mi esposa comenzó a servir limonada a la hora de la cena los domingos, una delicia en nuestra casa. Su mensaje a nuestra familia era sencillo: la pandemia ofrece muchos “limones”, pero esas cosas agrias pueden convertirse en limonada. Para conseguir la limonada, cada uno de nosotros compartimos una bendición u otra cosa buena que ocurrió debido a la pandemia. Cada semana, encontramos nuevas cosas para agradecer y encontrar la dulzura que la vida nos ofrece incluso en los momentos en los que a veces se sienten sin esperanza.

La lucha para superar una pandemia continúa. No comprendemos completamente cuáles serán los impactos a largo plazo en todos. Así que les pedimos que sigan haciendo limonada: que encuentren lo positivo en todo mientras avanzamos juntos, y que compartan esos aspectos positivos con sus hijos y con todos los demás.

Nosotros haremos lo mismo. Nos complace anunciar que cada una de nuestras 10 escuelas recibieron el Nivel de Plata en Intervenciones y Apoyos de Conducta Positivo (PBIS), el nivel más alto que pudimos recibir. Este es nuestro esfuerzo por enfocar a todos en los aspectos positivos para construir aún más las comunidades que queremos aquí mismo. ¡Esperamos hacer mucha limonada con ustedes!

Dr. J. Michael McGrath *Elementary*

21501 Deputy Jake Dr., Newhall, CA 91321 • 661/291-4091 • www.mcgrathelementary.com



Jennifer Boone
Principal

Generous Partners

McGrath Elementary is thrilled to have the support of the Assistance League of Santa Clarita and Operation School Bell again this year. This philanthropic program provides new clothes

and shoes for our families in need. Melanie Cotterell, Chairperson for the 2021-2022 school year, connects with the community liaisons in our district schools as well as Libby Carson, our district Lead Counselor and McKinney-Vento Foster Youth Liaison. Operation School Bell provides vouchers for families in need to shop for appropriate school clothing at our local stores. The Assistance League is acutely aware that children perform better at school when they have a positive self-image.

Operation School Bell is only one of the signature programs of the Assistance League of Santa Clarita. They also provide the Teddy Bear Patrol and Icare



for Kids. The Assistance League volunteers truly change lives for the children in our schools. McGrath is proud to be a partner with this generous organization.

Meadows *Elementary*

25577 N. Fedala Rd., Valencia, CA 91355 • 661/291-4050 • www.meadowselementary.com



Janette Van Gelderen
Principal

Physically and Emotionally Safe

At Meadows, our goal is to ensure that all of our students feel both physically and emotionally safe here on campus. We are focusing on educating the whole child and providing Social Emotional Learning (SEL) opportunities for all. This year our full time school counselor, Ms. Harvey is partnering with our teachers to provide engaging

lessons focused on establishing a sense of community and belonging in both the classroom and throughout the campus. These SEL lessons aim to foster students' self esteem, confidence, and character. Ms. Harvey will also be leading our Kindness Ambassadors this year. Kindness Ambassadors are students who are role models to their peers and who are willing to be a friend to others in need. This program provides an excellent opportunity for students to be leaders

for others demonstrating how to establish and maintain healthy friendships, self-awareness, and problem solving on the playground.



Newhall *Elementary*

24607 Walnut St., Newhall, CA 91321 • 661/291-4010 • www.newhallelementary.net



Jackie Tapia
Principal

Newhall Eagles Soar

At Newhall we consider ourselves “ever-growers,” educators that strive to constantly and continuously improve instruction. This summer 19 teachers and administrators completed the Online Elementary Reading Academy, based on the science of reading. The course explained the five essential components of reading—phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension and the importance of explicit instruction. This was one more step for the Newhall Elementary team in support of the school wide reading focus. The goal is that every student meets grade level reading expectations by the end of the school year, especially our first grade students. In the next couple of weeks, all Kindergarten through sixth grade students will be screened to determine needs. The data will determine lesson content, teaching strategies, and grouping. This gigantic effort is possible thanks to the collaboration of all site teachers. Newhall Elementary Eagles will soar with reading this school year!



Oak Hills *Elementary*

26730 Old Rock Rd., Valencia, CA 91381 • 661/291-4100 • www.oakhillsschool.com



Wendy Maxwell
Principal

An Amazing Year Ahead

Oak Hills Elementary School is so excited to welcome back our incredible Coyotes to the new 2021-2022 school year! Our staff has eagerly anticipated the full reopening of the campus. Our continued commitment to fostering resilience, perseverance, grit, empathy, and the ability to communicate effectively in diverse learning partnerships will also undoubtedly help our students thrive academically, socially, and emotionally.

Our team will continue to embed critical thinking and collaboration across all content areas. We will be working diligently to meet the diverse needs of our students through small-group instruction across all grade levels, and will be offering additional enrichment in after-school classes. Our Oak Hills PTA and Foundation have many events planned for the year to help keep our students excited to be back at school.

As recipients of the Silver Award for school-wide Positive Behavior Intervention Support, our diligent effort to instill tools for self-regulation and emotional wellness will carry on through additional lessons by our teachers, counselor, and administration.

One of the greatest characteristics of the Oak Hills learning community is the genuine care and compassion that is shared between our staff, students, and parents.



Oak Hills Elementary is a place where staff and families can come together to ensure that the children who are entrusted into our care can grow to become productive, confident, and compassionate members of a global society. I look forward to an amazing year!

Old Orchard *Elementary*

25141 N. Avenida Rondel, Valencia, CA 91355 • 661/291-4040 • www.oldorchardelementary.com



Daria Ramirez
Principal

Fostering a Growth Mindset

By Daria Ramirez, Principal; and Kristal Campbell, Old Orchard School Counselor

We all have beliefs about our own abilities and potential. These beliefs are so powerful that they can fuel our behavior and predict our future successes. The way we think and our “self-talk” help shape our everyday lives.

At Old Orchard, our staff is dedicated to fostering our students’ social-emotional competencies of self-awareness, self-

management, social awareness, relationship skills, and responsible decision-making. By utilizing Second Steps, a universal classroom-based, social-emotional learning curriculum, all students will engage in classroom lessons that will help develop healthy self-identities and social skills.

In August, our school counselor, Mrs. Campbell, began visiting classrooms to teach the first unit in the Second Steps curriculum,

which focuses on Growth Mindset. Students are learning about the brain’s remarkable ability to grow and change, and how to view mistakes as opportunities for growth.

A positive mindset focuses on the gains that are possible when students persevere through learning challenges. When children see others modeling a Growth Mindset, they learn that making mistakes, struggling through obstacles, and rebounding from failure are natural life experiences. At Old Orchard, our teachers and staff will continue to take active steps to foster a Growth Mindset in all of our students.



Peachland *Elementary*

24800 Peachland Ave., Newhall, CA 91321 • 661/291-4020 • www.peachlandelementary.net



Diana Stenroos
Principal

Social Emotional Learning at Peachland!

With rising concerns about the social emotional well-being of our students and community as a result of Covid-19 and other factors, Peachland is now focusing its attention on supporting students and their Social Emotional Learning (SEL).

Social Emotional Learning is defined as the process through which all young people and adults acquire and apply the knowledge, skills, and attitudes they need to develop healthy identities, manage emotions, and achieve their personal and collective goals. SEL also helps to develop empathy for others, the ability to establish and maintain supportive relationships, and how to make responsible and caring decisions.

At Peachland, we want to ensure that our students have the proper support and mindset to be able to focus their attention on academics. Social Emotional Learning helps to promote excellence, provides structure and focus on academics, improves student attitudes about learning, and supports a variety of student needs.

To help achieve success for our students, we have designed a multi-tiered, school-wide approach to Social Emotional Learning. All students will have access to SEL classroom lessons every two weeks as taught by our school counselors. Some will participate in small groups (six to eight weeks in length), and some will receive individual support as needed.

The district will be using the Second Step SEL curriculum, which focuses on growth mindset/goal setting, how to recognize emotions, how to learn to demonstrate empathy and kindness, and problem-solving. Along with classroom lessons, students will also have the opportunity to participate in Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS), Red Ribbon Week, and bullying prevention activities.

We are grateful and excited to have our students back on campus, and look forward to working together as a community. Be on the lookout for additional information and resources for parents/guardians and students that help support Social Emotional Learning.

Pico Canyon *Elementary*

25255 Pico Canyon Rd., Stevenson Ranch, CA 91381 • 661/291-4070 • www.picoelementary.com



Tammi Rainville
Principal

Ushering in the New School Year

As we roll-out this exciting new school year, engagement will be at the center of all that we do here at Pico. By actively engaging our students, we can help them find new knowledge, new perspectives, and new interests.

We want our students to have a minds-on, hearts-on, and hands-on approach to learning. We want them to engage with the entire school community in a positive manner, and feel that they are capable of achieving just about anything they might imagine.

But we realize that we will need to work together to identify what students know and should be able to do. We will assess this knowledge and understanding in a holistic manner, and will design instruction, intervention, and enrichment activities to ensure that every student can reach a proficient level of academic progress.

On this pathway to learning recovery, however, we know that social emotional learning will also need to be embedded into our classrooms and instruction. As we engage students in social emotional learning, our teachers and counselors can help build deep connections that are rooted in empathy. As we engage them in person, we will work on rebuilding the strong sense of community that we have always had here at Pico.

Finally, we could not focus on engagement without the support of our PTA and families! The many events and activities that our PTA and families bring to Pico are at the heart of our school's connectedness. Student-centered events, celebrations, assemblies, dances, and field trips help our children develop "Husky Pride"!

It is through engagement, multi-tiered levels of support, and enrichment that we will get back on track here at Pico. What we want more than anything is for our students to forever feel that they are a #MemberofthePack!

Stevenson Ranch *Elementary*

25820 N. Carroll Ln., Stevenson Ranch, CA 91381 • 661/291-4070 • www.stevensonranchschool.com



Tim Lankford
Principal

Stevenson Ranch Wranglers Are Back!

The Stevenson Ranch Wrangler family is excited to kick off the 2021-2022 school year. Our teachers, staff, students, and families are all thrilled to be back on campus in-person.

As we begin the year, our teachers are engaging in learning activities to help build classroom communities where the students can exchange ideas to help build school pride. The core of our "Wrangler Pride" is that everyone who is a part of our school community always wears their "BOOTS," which stands for "Be Respectful, Own Your Actions, Operate Safely, Think Kindly, and Strive for Success."

This school year, to help build and celebrate our school community, we have decided that during every week our staff and students will acknowledge those special individuals who exemplify Wrangler Pride. During the week of August 23rd, our sixth-grade students and teacher Mrs. Ryan acknowledged the school's library media specialist, Mrs. Rossi. Mrs. Rossi consistently models what it means to be a Wrangler through her day-to-day interactions and helpful support and encouragement of others.

Thank you, Mrs. Rossi, and thank you to this sixth-grade class for their thoughtfulness. The Stevenson Ranch Wranglers are definitely back! We are looking forward to an amazing year.



Valencia Valley *Elementary*

23601 Carrizo Dr., Valencia, CA 91355 • 661/291-4060 • www.valenciavalleyelementary.com



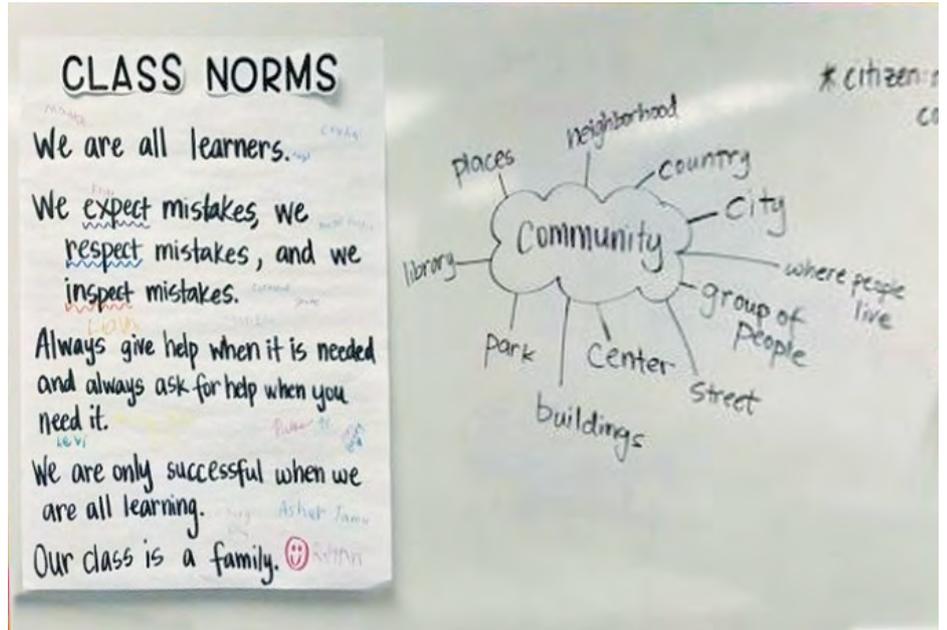
Amy Gaudette
Principal

Lots of Practice

Valencia Valley teachers are spending the first 3 weeks of school focusing on building community and establishing norms, routines, and procedures within their classrooms. This has looked like sharing stories, playing games, participating in protocols, and practice... lots of practice!

While it is standard procedure each fall to spend time on these topics, teachers are focused on deep dives this year. We recognize that we have quite a mix of student experience in our classes as a result of the different approaches to education during the time of COVID over the past year and a half. Some students are returning from the hybrid experience on campus last spring. Some are returning from DLA, homeschool or private school. There are some students at VV this

year who have never been on campus! It is essential that we work together to rebuild our school community and renew our commitments to the extraordinary school experience traditionally offered at Valencia Valley.



Wiley Canyon *Elementary*

24240 La Glorita Circle, Newhall, CA 91321 • 661/291-4030 • www.wileycanyonelementary.com



Dr. Stacy Williamson
Principal

Celebrating What's Right at Wiley Canyon

This school year Wiley Canyon is focused on creating a safe and welcoming learning environment for our students. We recognize that the social emotional wellbeing of each one of our students and staff members is a priority.

As we welcome back staff and students on campus, we are celebrating what's right. Here at Wiley Canyon we know it takes a team to turn the ordinary into extraordinary. The Wiley Canyon community is excited about our vision. We are optimistic and know that with the right support each and every one of our students will achieve at high levels.



Daniel's Review



Daniel H.

Best Friends

Title: *Narwhal's Otter Friend*
(A *Narwhal and Jelly* Book #4)

Author: Ben Clanton

Narwhal the narwhal and Jelly the jellyfish are best friends. One day, they are swimming in the ocean when they meet Otty the



Otter. Otty is an adventurer that has done lots of cool stuff and met many animals. Otty wants to go on his next adventure and invites Narwhal to join him. They forget to invite Jelly. Jelly becomes jealous and wonders if he is still Narwhal's best friend. Is Otty now Narwhal's best friend? What will happen to Jelly? You will find out if you read this book.

This book is really cute and funny and made me laugh while I was reading it. I hope you read it and like it as much as I did!

Daniel is in second grade and he likes to spend time with his family playing board games, reading, and playing sports like tennis, soccer, and basketball.

David's Review



David H.

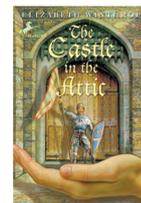
Big Small Adventure

Title: *The Castle in the Attic*

Author: Elizabeth Winthrop

Do you like magic, knights, dragons, and adventure? Then this is the book for you.

William is a boy that loves his nanny and housekeeper, Mrs. Phillips, who has taken



care of him since he was born. She is retiring and he doesn't want her to leave. She gives him a giant toy castle and a toy knight inside it as a goodbye present. William finds out that the toy knight, Sir Simon, is actually alive and the invisible kingdom inside the castle has been taken over by the evil wizard Alastor! William has Sir Simon shrink Mrs. Phillips with a magic coin so that she can't leave William and can stay with him forever. Then William shrinks himself so he can save the kingdom from the evil wizard.

Read this book to find out if William saves the day!

David is in fourth grade and he loves to read and play piano. He likes math and outdoor activities such as rock climbing, tennis, and basketball.

Kailani's Review



Kailani T.

Lovable Shih-Tzu, Yum-Yum

Say Good-Bye

by Laurie Halse Anderson is book 5 of 17 in the Vet Volunteers series. It is about Yum-Yum, a small Shih-Tzu therapy dog.

Yum-Yum visits children with cancer at the hospital



to cheer them up with his cuteness and tricks. Kids LOVE him. Unfortunately, Yum-Yum is also found to have cancer. Jane (Yum-Yum's owner) and Zoe (Jane's friend, a volunteer at the animal clinic) try their best to help him get better. Can Yum-Yum make it through?

This book is very heartwarming. It is full of suspense with excitement and sadness. Reading it makes me happy and sad at the same time. I have been asking my parents for a puppy for a few years. This story makes me understand that having a puppy won't just be cute and fun. If the puppy gets very sick, I may have to make hard decisions. I highly recommend this book for anyone who loves animals.

Kailani is a 4th grader who loves to read. When not playing with her brother, Kailani likes to listen to music, ride horses, and play board games. Hope everyone stays well and healthy.

Katie's Review



Katie C.

City Life vs The Wild

Title: *Brian's Return*

Author: Gary Paulsen

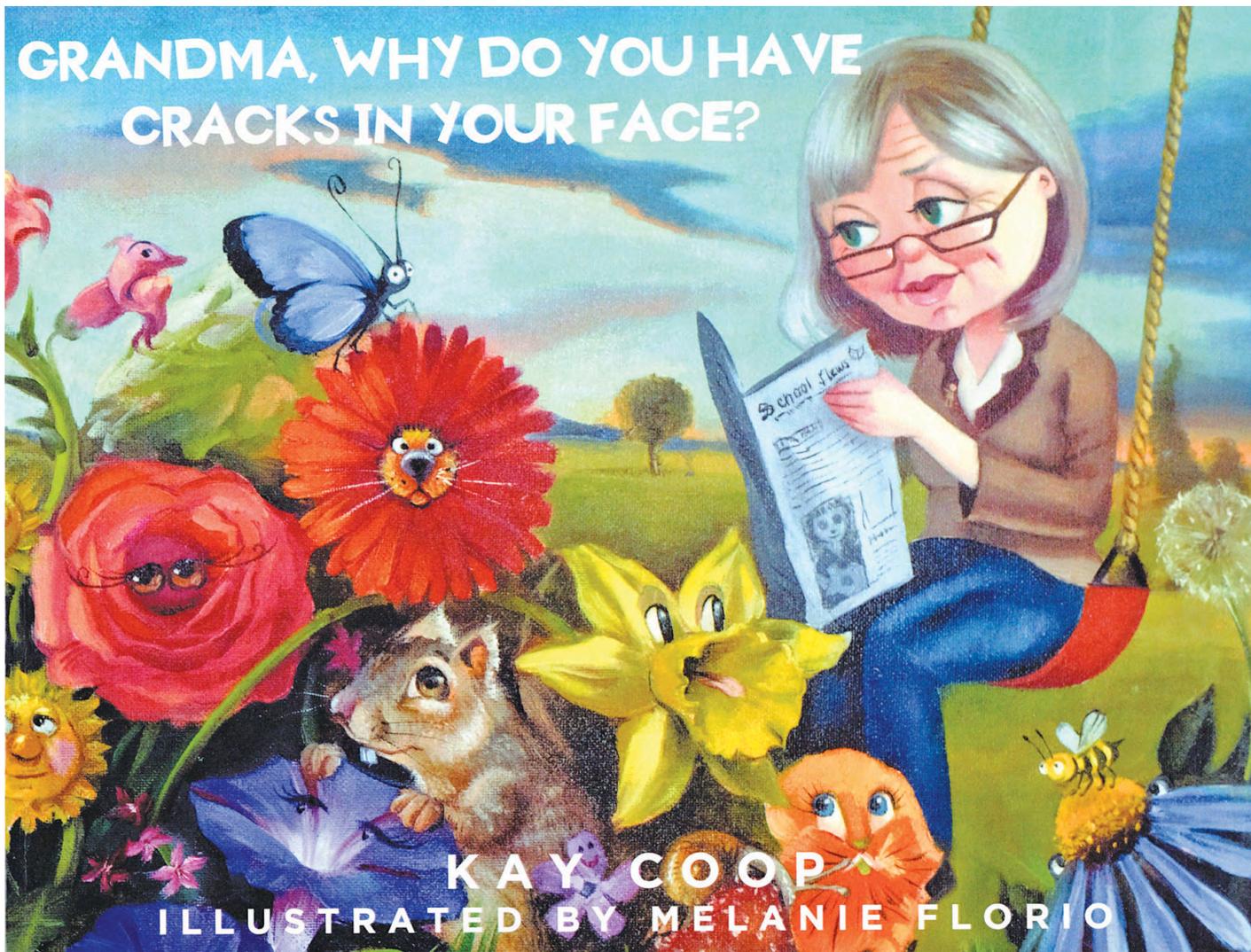
If you've ever read the book *Hatchet*, you know the story of Brian and how he was stranded after a dangerous and tragic plane crash. After he survives, the plot ends



and readers are left wanting more. *Brian's Return* is the sequel to this book, and portrays the difficulty Brian has in adjusting to his new life, free of wild animals and the dangers of living in solidarity in nature. As "safe" as his new life may seem, Brian is struggling immensely with living a so-called "normal" life. Therefore, he meets a psychologist named Caleb. Speaking with Caleb helps Brian work through the trauma he has faced and also to make a decision on what to do now. Will he finally be able to accept a calmer environment? Or will he still miss the woods, deep down in his heart? If you want to find out what Brian chooses to do, you should read *Brian's Return*.

Katie is a senior in high school. She likes reading and writing. She loves to read to younger kids. She provides book reviews to kids who want to find more good books.

GRANDMA, WHY DO YOU HAVE CRACKS IN YOUR FACE?



KAY COOP
ILLUSTRATED BY MELANIE FLORIO



Now Available on
**AMAZON &
BARNES AND NOBLE**

Grandma, Why Do You Have Cracks In Your Face? Is a question many grandmothers have heard from their grandchildren. When a grandchild finds her beautiful lost doll, she understands beauty is more than skin deep.